



**T**he Queenes most excellent Maiestie, foreseeing the generall dearth growen of corne and other victuals, partly through the unseasonableness of the yeere past, whereby want hath growen more in some countries then in others, but most of all generallie through the covetousnesse and uncharitable greedinesse of such as be great cornemasters and engrossers of corne, using al the subtil meanes they can, to worke their owne present unconscionable gaine against the rules of charitie, which her Maiestie of her princely care and love towards her people, utterly condemneth, and earnestly desireth to remedie, for the reliefe of the poorer sort. And therefore, her Maiestie with her princely care towards her people, having (with the advise of her Counsell) had good consideration hereof, doth by this her Proclamation, give expresse commandement and charge vnto al such to whome it shall or may appertaine, that such good orders as her Maiestie hath commanded to be devised for that purpose, and now also are sent to all partes of her Realme, bee diligently & effectually put in speedie execution: Signifying withall vnto all her good and loving subjects, that if any shalbe founde obstinate or negligent in the due execution, or otherwise in the obseruation thereof, that then vpon due information and prooffe thereof made vnto her highnesse said Counsell, which she requireth not to be spared by any, hauing iust cause of complaint, for respect of any person, she hath giuen special commandement & order, that they shalbe speedily called to answer, and thereupon, according to the qualitie of their offences, shall receiue sharpe punishment, whereby others may take example to auoide the like contempt, negligence, or other defaults.

And although this Dearth hath in sundry partes of the Realme first growen by the visitation of Almighty God, in the alteration of seasonable weather this last yeere, which neuertheless of his great mercy hath not bin so extreme in this Realme, as in many other Countries adioyning, where the Dearth is by many occasions manifestly knowen to be farre greater then is in this Realme hitherto, or by his goodnesse is like to be: Yet it is manifestly knowen the sayd Dearth to haue bene wilfully encreased in very many places of this Realme, not onely by and through the covetousnesse of many engrossers of Corne and Cornemasters, but also by vnlawfull transportation of Grayne, and lacke also of preservation of store in time requisite. Her Highnes acknowledging this manner of Gods mercy and fauour in a more fauourable measure towards her Country and her people, then to other forrein partes neere adioyning, hath thought good and necessary, for a further remedie against the uncharitable covetousnesse of the Cornemasters, as cause shall require, to notifie, that if such as be the great Cornemasters & owners of Grayne, or of other necessarie victual for foode of the poore, shall not be willing, or doe not performe these orders, whereby the poorer sort may be relieved in the markets at reasonable prices, or that it shall appeare that other needefull victuals shall by covetousnesse of any persons growe to excessive prices, to the pinching of the poorer sort: Then her Highnesse doth hereby signifie, that she wil not onely severely punish the offenders for their cruel covetousnes & offences against her orders, but will also for redresse of the excessive prices of other needefull victuals, giue order that reasonable prices shall be set both on Corne and other victuals to be solde for the reliefe of her Maiesties poore Subjects, according both to her Prerogative Royal, and to the order of Justice, as by speciall lawe of Parliament therefore made in the fife and twentieth yeere of the raigne of her late Noble and deare Father King Henry the eight, is specially in such cases provided. Given at Greenwich the second day of January, 1586. In the nine and twentieth yeere of her Highnesse raigne.

God saue the Queene.

Imprinted at London by Christopher Barker,  
Printer to the Queenes most excellent  
Maiestie.